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Our Case No. 8285/430

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                                      |   |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| In re Application of:                | ) |                                  |
| Gruchala et al.                      | ) |                                  |
|                                      | ) | Examiner: Not Yet Assigned       |
| Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned         | ) |                                  |
|                                      | ) | Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned |
| Filed: April 25, 2001                | ) |                                  |
|                                      | ) |                                  |
| For: Method and System for Providing | ) |                                  |
| a Work-At-Home                       | ) |                                  |
| Telecommunication Service            | ) |                                  |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment prior to examination.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

(1) On page 1, before the first sentence, please add "This application is a continuation of application number 08/723,853, filed September 30, 1996 (pending), which is hereby incorporated by reference."

(2) Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 26-31 with the following paragraph. Tab A attached to this Preliminary Amendment contains a marked-up version of this paragraph showing all changes relative to the previous version of this paragraph.

A service switching point (SSP) 12 serves a plurality of telephone lines 14, including a telephone line 16, a telephone line 18, and a telephone line 20. Another service switching point (SSP) 22 serves a plurality of telephone lines 24, including a telephone line 26, a telephone line 28, and a telephone line 29. The SSPs 12 and 22 can be included within respective central

offices or end offices of a public telephone system.

(3) Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 17-24 with the following paragraph. Tab A attached to this Preliminary Amendment contains a marked-up version of this paragraph showing all changes relative to the previous version of this paragraph.

For the purpose of illustration, the telephone lines 16, 18, 20, 26, 28, and 29 are members of a group which subscribes to the telecommunication service. The telephone lines 16, 18, 20, 26, 28, and 29 can be the home telephone lines of fellow employees of a business, for example, which subscribes to the work-at-home telecommunication service. Associated with the group are an identification number used for billing the group's telecommunication calls and a carrier identification code to identify a telecommunication carrier to carry the group's telecommunication calls.

#### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 1-26 and add new Claims 27-59 as follows:

27. (New) A method of providing a work-at-home telecommunication service, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a dialed number from a calling party, said calling party being associated with a calling party identification number; and

(b) automatically modifying the calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with the calling party.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of receiving a service-specific code from the calling party.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of receiving a vertical-service code from the calling party.

30. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of receiving an access code from the calling party.

31. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of receiving a personal identification number from the calling party.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein step (b) further comprises the step of sending a query to a service control point, the query comprising the calling party identification number.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein step (b) further comprises the step of modifying, with the service control point, the calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with the calling party.

34. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of sending the modified calling party identification number to a called party associated with the dialed number.

35. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of sending the modified calling party identification number to a called party associated with the dialed number in response to a failure of receiving a privacy access code from the calling party.

36. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the dialed number comprises a private virtual network number.

37. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of translating the dialed number to a called party identification number.

38. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of determining a telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

39. (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of routing a call from the calling party to a called party associated with the dialed number via the telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

40. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of automatically modifying a billing identification number of the calling party to a billing identification number of the group associated with the calling party.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of creating a billing record based upon the modified billing identification number.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the billing identification number comprises an ANI number.

43. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of providing a signal to a called party associated with the dialed number to indicate that an incoming call is associated with the group associated with the calling party.

44. (New) A system for providing a work-at-home telecommunication service, the system comprising:

means for receiving a dialed number from a calling party, said calling party being associated with a calling party identification number; and

means for automatically modifying the calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with the calling party.

45. (New) A system for providing a work-at-home telecommunication service, the system comprising:

a service control point operative to automatically modify a calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with the calling party in response to a query; and

a signal switching point coupled with the service control point, the signal switching point being operative to send said query to the service control point.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send said query in response to receiving a service-specific code.

47. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send said query in response to receiving a vertical-service code.

48. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send said query in response to receiving an access code.

49. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the signal switching point is further operative to send said query in response to receiving a personal identification number.

50. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to send the modified calling party identification number to a called party associated with the dialed number.

51. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to send the modified calling party identification number to a called party associated with the dialed number in response to a failure of receiving a privacy access code from the calling party.

52. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to automatically modify a billing identification number of the calling party to a billing identification number of the group associated with the calling party.

53. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the service control point is further operative to create a billing record based upon the modified billing identification number.

54. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein billing identification number comprises an ANI number.

55. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to provide a signal to a called party associated with the dialed number to indicate that an incoming call is associated with the group associated with the calling party.

56. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to translate the dialed number to a called party identification number.

57. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the dialed number comprises a private virtual network number.

58. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the service control point is further operative to determine a telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

59. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the service control point is further operative to route a call from the calling party to a called party associated with the dialed number via the telecommunication carrier for the group associated with the calling party.

## REMARKS

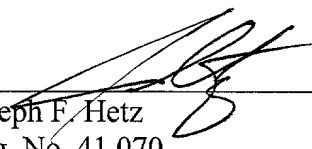
In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to add continuing information. Specifically, this application is a continuation of application number 08/723,853, filed September 30, 1996.

Applicants have also amended the specification and claims to make this application identical to U.S. patent application serial no. 09/032,087. The '087 application is also a continuation of the '853 application. There is an outstanding Office Action directed against the '087 application in which Claims 27-35, 38-49, 50-55, and 58-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleischer, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,974,133) in view of London (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,184) and further in view of Staples et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,845). Additionally, Claims 36-37 and 56-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleischer, III et al. in view of London and further in view of Bannister et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,636). Rather than file a three-month extension of time in the '087 application to respond to the outstanding Office Action, Applicants are filing this continuation application of the '853 application to continue the prosecution of the claims. Applicants submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Dated: April 25, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

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